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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,681	03/03/2004	Frank P. Hollinger	1866.0220001/PEG/CMB	2609
26111	7590	04/21/2006	EXAMINER	
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BORIN, MICHAEL L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1631	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/791,681	HOLLINGER, FRANK P.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Michael Borin	1631		

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-115 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-115 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-115 are currently pending.

Restriction Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-28, 56-83 drawn to first method for preparing a virtual representation of a protein, classified in class 703, subclass 12.

Based on subsequent steps following steps addressed in claim 1, Group I is further divided into the following Groups I.1-I.7. Claims 1-6,21,22, 56-62,75,76,83 will be considered as linking claims.

- I.1. Claims 7,8,62,63 directed to further assessing the virtual representation of the protein for atoms that are not part of the protein.
- I.2. Claims 9-18,64-72, directed to further assessing the virtual representation of the protein for hydrogen atom sites.
- I.3. Claims 19,73, directed to further assessing an energy state of the virtual representation of the protein
- I.4. Claims 20,74, directed to further assessing a structural quality of the virtual representation
- I.5. Claims 23,24,77,78, directed to further minimizing an energy level of the virtual representation of the protein

- I.6 Claims 25-27,79-81, directed to further minimizing the energy level of a binding site
- I.7 Claims 28,82, directed to further mutating a residue of the virtual representation

- II. Claim 29-55, drawn to a system comprising database, a virtual representation engine and output module, classified in class 707, subclass 12.
- III. Claim 84-111, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 703, subclass 21.

- IV. Claims 112,114 drawn to second method for preparing a virtual representation of a protein, classified in class 703, subclass 12.
- V. Claim 113, drawn to a system, classified in class 707, subclass 12.
- VI. Claim 115, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 703, subclass 21.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Invention of Group III and of Groups I.1-I.7 are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each subcombination is broadly

recited in claim 112, and the specific characteristics required by the dependent claims in each of the subcombination groups are not required by the combination claim.. The subcombinations have separate utilities such as evaluating properties of proteins, such as, e.g., energy level, bonds, etc.

Computer system of Group II comprising a database, a virtual representation engine, and an output module is distinct from method of Group I can be used for other methods, e.g., in graphical design methods.

Inventions I and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another materially different process. In this case, the process as claimed can be practiced by hand, i.e., by visual evaluation of protein representation.

Similarly, apparatus and system of Groups V,VI are distinct from method of Group III.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 1631

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Borin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0713. Dr. Borin can normally be reached between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. EST Monday to Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner=s supervisor, Mr. Michael Woodward, can be reached on (571) 272-0722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0549.

April 17, 2006

MICHAEL BORIN, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER

mlb

